

## **EXHIBIT 1**

*Excerpts of October 25, 2024 (Volume 1),  
Deposition of Deborah D. Maxwell*

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

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SHAUNA WILLIAMS, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Case No. 23-CV-1057

REPRESENTATIVE DESTIN

HALL, etc., et al., Case No. 23-CV-1104  
Defendants.

~~~~~

NORTH CAROLINA STATE  
CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

PHILIP BERGER, etc., et al.,

Defendants.

~~~~~

The Remote Deposition of

DEBORAH D. MAXWELL

October 25, 2024  
9:30 a.m.

25  
Cynthia Sullivan, RPR

1 APPEARANCES:

2

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Justice, by

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1 provide that information based on the First  
2 Amendment privilege, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Prior to filing this lawsuit, did  
5 the North Carolina NAACP seek authorization to  
6 do so from any of its members?

7 MS. KLEIN: Objection. You can go  
8 ahead to the extent that the answer won't  
9 disclose the identity of anyone who is not  
10 already public. We're objecting to that on  
11 First Amendment grounds. But to the extent  
12 that you're able to answer, please, go ahead.

13 A. Can you repeat the question,  
14 please?

15 Q. Prior to filing this lawsuit, did  
16 the North Carolina NAACP seek authorization to  
17 do so from its members?

18 MS. KLEIN: Same objection. You  
19 can go ahead.

20 A. The North Carolina NAACP prior to  
21 filing this lawsuit knows that we have  
22 individuals in every impacted area of the  
23 lawsuit or else it would not have been filed.

24 Q. Did you seek authorization from  
25 those members to file this lawsuit?

11:37:05

11:37:24

11:37:35

11:37:43

11:38:07

1 MS. KLEIN: Objection. Go ahead.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. How did you obtain that  
4 authorization?

5 A. By the impacted areas, you can look 11:38:36  
6 at the map, correct, and see where the branches  
7 are and the individuals.

8 Q. Did you talk to members and ask  
9 them if you could file this lawsuit on their  
10 behalf? 11:39:06

11 MS. KLEIN: Objection. Go ahead.

12 A. We have members who are in each  
13 impacted area who have agreed that we have the  
14 named plaintiffs, adults, who are not within  
15 those areas that this lawsuit is about. 11:39:33

16 Q. President Maxwell, my question was  
17 a little different. Did you talk to those  
18 members and ask them if you could file this  
19 lawsuit on their behalf?

20 MS. KLEIN: Objection. Go ahead. 11:39:47

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. When did those conversations  
23 take place?

24 A. I cannot be specific, I'm sorry,  
25 but it is over a span of time because it is 11:40:07

1 over the span of the state except for the west.

2 I wonder why.

3 Q. Is it your testimony that it was  
4 before December 19th, 2023?

5 A. It was done. I cannot give you a 11:40:29  
6 specific time.

7 Q. Who spoke to these members?

8 A. Myself and assisted by my first  
9 vice president.

10 Q. Who is the first vice president? 11:41:05

11 A. Courtney Patterson.

12 Q. Did you say -- I'm sorry. Could  
13 you repeat that name?

14 A. Courtney.

15 Q. Courtney Patterson? 11:41:18

16 MS. KLEIN: I'll just state the  
17 First Amendment objection, although I  
18 understand that Mr. Patterson is publicly  
19 disclosed in that position. So you can go  
20 ahead. 11:41:30

21 Q. How many members did you and  
22 Mr. Patterson speak to to seek their  
23 authorization to file this lawsuit on their  
24 behalf?

25 A. I cannot give you a specific 11:41:37

1 members you called?

2 A. (Indicating.)

3 Q. How did you contact those members?

4 A. Members were contacted by whatever  
5 method of contact was available to reach them. 11:49:45  
6 Some people have email. Some people have  
7 phones.

8 Q. Did the North Carolina NAACP then  
9 contact members via email about authorizing the  
10 filing of this lawsuit? 11:50:12

11 A. Not really.

12 Q. How did you contact these members?  
13 Can you speak up, please?

14 A. I initially called individuals.

15 MS. KLEIN: I'm just -- I know 11:50:46  
16 you're in the middle of questions. It's past  
17 the time we have said for lunch. It might be a  
18 good time for a break coming up.

19 MS. PROUTY: If you don't mind, I  
20 just have a few questions to finish on this 11:51:00  
21 topic.

22 MS. KLEIN: I'll just defer to the  
23 witness on how she's feeling.

24 THE WITNESS: I'm getting a little  
25 confused right now. 11:51:07

1 number of these individuals, I also know their  
2 ethnicity if they had not checked it.

3 Q. Which of the members in  
4 paragraph 15 do you personally know based on  
5 your role as the president of the state  
6 conference?

7 A. Right now I feel like all of them  
8 who are plaintiffs, but I can't specify. I  
9 will mix up the districts. But it has been, as  
10 I told you, I have been within leadership  
11 within the state conference for the past 15  
12 years, so that has allowed me to meet people  
13 all across the state.

14 Q. Does the portal include information  
15 showing whether these members are black or  
16 African-American?

17 A. In no way, shape or form.

18 Q. Does the portal indicate whether  
19 these members are registered to vote?

20 A. No, ma'am. I don't think so. I'm  
21 not looking at the portal to verify voter  
22 status. I'm using the most reliable tool which  
23 is the ncsbe.gov, the state.

24 Q. Just to be clear, I think you and I  
25 are on the same page, but for the record when I

13:10:14

13:10:28

13:10:46

13:10:57

13:11:18

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

The State of Ohio, )

ss:

County of Cuyahoga. )

I, Cynthia Sullivan, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within named witness, DEBORAH D. MAXWELL, was by me first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given by the above-referenced witness was by me reduced to stenotypy in the presence of said witness; afterwards transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the testimony so given by the above-referenced witness.

I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified and was completed without adjournment.

1                   I do further certify that I am not  
2 a relative, counsel or attorney for either  
3 party, or otherwise interested in the event of  
4 this action.

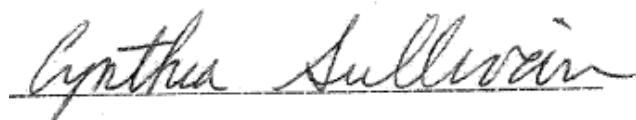
5                   IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
6 set my hand and affixed my seal of office at  
7 Cleveland, Ohio, on this 28th day of  
8 October, 2024.

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Cynthia Sullivan, Notary Public  
within and for the State of Ohio

My commission expires October 17, 2026.